

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed on January 24, 2008, which has been reviewed and carefully considered. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

By means of the present amendment, claims 18-20 have been amended for better form. Claims 18-20 were not made in order to address issues of patentability and Applicants respectfully reserve all rights under the Doctrine of Equivalents.

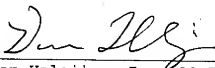
In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 17-20 are allowed and that claims 10-12 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that claims 17-20 are allowed and that claims 10-12 contain patentable subject matter. By means of the present amendment, independent claim 1 has been amended to delete certain features that are not necessary for patentability, and to include the features of allowable claim 10 which has been canceled without prejudice.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 should be allowable, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that claims 3, 7-9, 11-16 and 21 should also be allowed at least based on their dependence from independent claim 1.

In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicants reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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